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THE INTERNATIONAL SERVICE
of the
North American
Young Men's Christian Associations

ISSUED BY THE FOREIGN COMMITTEE
of the Young Men's Christian Associations
of the United States and Canada
347 Madison Avenue, New York 40 College Street, Toronto

PRINTED IN U S A.

1928 FOREIGN COMMITTEE 1929

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FORTY years ago the Young Men's Christian Associations of Canada and of the United States entered upon a joint undertaking of wide extent and vast significance. In response to insistent and repeated calls from the Christian leaders in India, China, Japan, and South America, a few Association secretaries were sent out under commission to help present the life and teachings of Jesus Christ, in ways and by means found most effective in the Associations at home, to the young men and boys of these lands. Today 169 such envoys of Association friendship and co-operation in eighty political, commercial, and educational capitals are binding the United States and Canada, and thirty other nations together in an international fellowship and program.

The immediate goal was to create native, vigorous, and independent Association movements in all lands. The secretaries from North America were to initiate, guide, and counsel at the outset; then give way to indigenous leadership. Over 600 nationals are now serving in the various branches of the secretaryship. Seventeen national and international movements embracing twenty-four nations have been formed, a large part of the executive leadership and practically all the local support coming from their own people. Of all secretaries from North America 77 per cent are now responsible, on the field, to National Committees made up wholly or mostly of citizens of the country served; and 57 per cent are directed by native national general secretaries.

Impelled by the Christian motive these young movements have extended their ministry over a wide front in the endeavor to serve youth at the points of greatest need. If the chief obstacle to a more abundant life was economic, then their service found expression, in Korea, for example, in practi-

cal training for industry and for farming, or, in India, in promoting village improvement societies and rural credit banks which have won the hearty commendation of the government.

If disease and feeble stamina blocked the young Association, the enemy was attacked through city-wide health campaigns in China, through playgrounds and gymnasiums in every country, and through such a skillful promotion of recreative games as to win in 1928 the highest recognition of the International Olympic Committee.

When barriers of ignorance and illiteracy lay across the path of youth, the Association made significant breaches in them by night schools, teaching all sorts of subjects from stenography to radio, by scientific lecture courses of national importance, and by helping set going the enormously potential "mass education movement" which has already banished illiteracy from several millions of Chinese.

The Association has everywhere helped men to break out of the unduly constricting bonds of caste and class, race and nation, and to come into a new and enriching fellowship. The civil and politicial leaders of Europe have repeatedly blessed the Association for its persistent optimism in bringing diverse tongues, creeds, and cultures into fruitful community enterprises.

Underlying the economic, the physical, the cultural, and the social needs of youth is the hunger for a supremely satisfying way of life. From the Bible classes, evangelistic meetings, and personal fellowship have come results in inspiring life and service which have set an example to many Associations in North America. In the eight republics of Latin America where the Association is at work a truly amazing response is now being made to the frank presentation of the Christian life to the intellectual classes in crowded lecture halls and over the radio.

The Association program must have tools to work with: buildings and equipment well adapted to the climate and the customs of the country. In most of the important centers the North American Associations have shared their capital resources with the new movements, usually giving the building when funds have been raised locally for the land and furnishings. During 1928 provisions for new or improved equipment were at the stage either of occupancy or construction, or of financing for Tokyo, Shanghai, Delhi, Fort Hare (South Africa), Jerusalem, Stamboul, Saloniki, Prague, Warsaw, Lisbon, Buenos Aires, Rio de Janeiro, and Mexico City, involving total funds provided jointly, that is locally and from North America, amounting to nearly $5,000,000. After model buildings have been thus provided in influential centers the national movements are encouraged to develop a constituency which will gradually extend the Association, adequately appointed, to other parts of their field.

Attention was first concentrated upon the governing, the financial, and the student sections of the people. The practical program quickly won the confidence of the civil and business leaders. Students were won in hostels, through the publication of special literature, and by group conferences on the problems of the moral and spiritual life. As the Associations grow in strength they are reaching out to the great masses in industry and in agriculture, upon which depends so largely the economic and social health of the future. The older boys also have become a primary concern, for from them must the leadership and support of the next generation be drawn. Today model boys' camps are found on all continents.

Toward the end of his life in Africa, David Livingstone remarked: "The end of the exploration is the beginning of the enterprise." The task of world exploration for the Associations of North America, however, has not yet been finished. Urgent calls from thirty nations yet unentered now lie on the

Foreign Committee's docket of unfinished business. In more than half the other thirty countries where North American secretaries are now at work, the few Association centers and the national movements ask for the co-operation of their older and stronger partners for years to come before they will feel ready to carry their full load in the international brotherhood.

Popular expectation, because of those forty years of achievement, is laying new burdens of national and international importance upon the Association abroad. What has been done thus far in sanitation, hygiene, and recreation has called forth a grateful appreciation which asks for the Association's aid in supplementing and even in reorganizing the educational programs of the state. If adequate resources were at hand, calls for service in industrial and rural areas of life could be accepted which would make for marked social amelioration. Notable success in bridging the chasms of nationality, race, and religion points the way to a world ministry for peace with eventful consequences for every human soul.

Canada and the United States, by reason of their superior resources, are the leaders in this overseas co-operation. Other movements also take their share as "sending bodies": the English and the Scottish National Councils, the movements of the Scandinavian countries, of France, of Australia and New Zealand have their spheres of Christian influence. All countries sending or receiving such help are members of the World's Alliance with its seat at Geneva, Switzerland, whose committee and executives supplement the activities of the sending countries in binding together the fifty-one lands where the Association is at work.

Like an individual, an institution finds its life in losing it. So the Young Men's Christian Associations of North America in their unselfish outreach to other lands have found a return in spiritual stimulus and fellowship which they had never suspected. From these lands come every year deputations of

leaders, equal to the best of the United States or of Canada, bringing richly suggestive points of view and a vision of what such a wide fellowship may mean increasingly for the whole world.

The Far Eastern Area

China, Japan, Korea, the Philippines, Indo-China, Siam, and the Straits Settlements

ONLY on the map is the East far away. The cable, the press, and the radio are fostering intimacy. All the political and social ferment of other lands is stirring this great area of 600,000,000 people. They, in turn, are finding out the faults of the West. They look abroad to choose from other civilizations those factors which will best supplement their own ancient cultures in meeting their present national needs. Christian ideals are at close grips with the forces of materialism and the fierce drives of Communism.

China

IN CHINA the Associations during most of the year were marked for destruction by the Communist and radical element. The story of this conflict is one of the most thrilling chapters in all the annals of the Association movement. Foreign secretaries braved all kinds of personal danger, standing by their posts except when actual fighting was going on, sending their families to Shanghai or other safe places. The Chinese secretaries stood severer tests. In certain local Associations they voluntarily asked that in view of the grave financial difficulties their salaries be reduced from 30 to 80 per cent until better times should come. Others even went on without any salary

for several months at a time. Several in Changsha were locked up for a few days; two were kept in prison for several months; Liu, of Foochow, was martyred.

But constructive forces are now ascendant over most of China. Those in power nationally ask for the aid of the Young Men's Christian Association in their enormously difficult task of preparing a nation for self-government, leading the masses to a civilized economic level, and establishing a national government and international relationships on essentially Christian principles. Seven of the members of the National Cabinet are Christians and two are former secretaries of the Association. In the past two years more than 150 of the Chinese secretarial personnel have been called into local, provincial, and national government posts.

Dr. David Z. T. Yui, the capable and distinguished general secretary of the National Committee, urges the sending of twenty more foreign secretaries than are now available for China service after the staff depletions enforced by the past two years' reductions. The properties seized under revolutionary stress have been returned with relatively small total damage. The local financial constituencies in most centers are again supporting normal and growing programs. An enlarged field of opportunity is opening to the more than 40 city Associations and 200 student Associations in the chief centers of influence of this new-old nation. Successful budget campaigns have been held in Shanghai, Changsha, Ningpo, Hangchow, Tsinan, Swatow, Tientsin, Soochow, Canton, and Wuchang; and in Foochow, the center of one of the most bitter anti-Christian and anti-Association agitations, $19,000 in cash was secured on an appeal for $15,000 to provide the annual budget and clear up part of the Association's indebtedness. In Tsingtao, land and buildings in a downtown location were given by a business man to the Association. A wealthy layman of Chungking presented the Association with a valuable tract of

Buildings in the Model Workmen's Village in Pootung, a mill section of Shanghai. The Chinese Y. M. C. A. in Shanghai manages the village and conducts its social activities and schools. Land for another such village has been given at Chungking

land for an industrial village to be built and conducted for the families of workmen along lines successfully pioneered by the Shanghai Association. The members of the family of Sun Yat-sen, including General and Mrs. Chiang Kai-shek, have contributed funds for four houses in the Shanghai Industrial Village. Foochow reports 900 men and boys in Bible classes and 300 decisions for the Christian life. The Society for the "Investigation of the Christian Doctrine" sponsored by the Association in Canton has enrolled 305 in a twelve weeks' course.

Japan

IN JAPAN the recent Enfranchisement Act brought more than 9,000,000 new voters to the polls. New forces have been unloosed, some of which fill the authorities with alarm. The Premier has appealed to the religious bodies to assist in the building of character among the young. The Association is thus suddenly thrown into a position of startling importance.

"Why are you Christians so slow in coming to the help of Japan at this critical time when we are faced with so many

serious problems?" was the challenge flung out by the young manager of a great industrial plant. Of nearly 200 cities of between 30,000 and 100,000 only four have thus far been occupied by the city Association.

The door is open. Government school principals invite Association secretaries to address their pupils on religion; Christian students appeal for Association help in counteracting the influence of the "Marx Boys", a Communist organization. Although it is most unusual for members of the Imperial family to make visits under any circumstances at night, Prince Chichibu, the present heir to the throne, paid the Association the signal honor of a visit of several hours on the evening of May 22. The event was heralded by the press to millions of readers throughout the Empire.

The city Associations of Japan have suffered more than those in any other part of the Orient for lack of adequate equipment. They are but very recently discarding the primitive structures of thirty years ago. A new era is at hand when some of the greater cities will show what an Association can do with an adequate modern equipment. The Osaka Association has spent eighteen months in its new building, a model both in adaptation to needs and in beauty, with the most heartening results. The new home of the Yokohama Association,

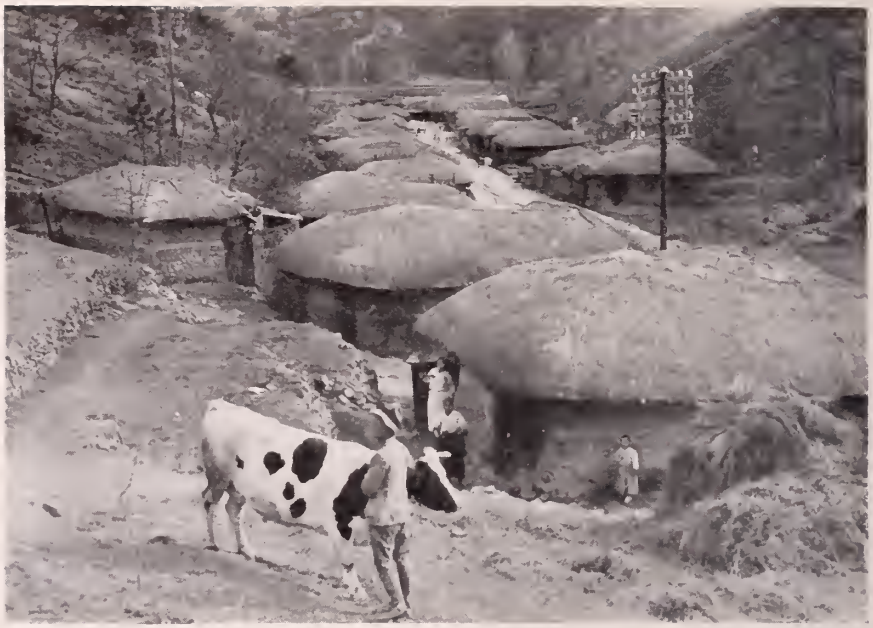
Watching the hands go round. Clock used in the Tokyo membership campaign. Japanese citizens have contributed upwards of $300,000

while still awaiting the completion of one wing, has a capacity 50 per cent greater than before the earthquake. Tokyo is building what is to be the most adequate plant in any Oriental city, towards which the citizens of Tokyo have already contributed $300,000. This Association, under the leadership of Mr. S. Saito, promises to exert an influence upon the Movement far beyond Japanese borders.

Korea

YOUTH is tossing aside old social customs, turning to radical notions in politics, facing an economic crisis, and letting go of its ancestral religion. Korea is largely a rural country whose people are in dire poverty and illiterate. Into these troubled communities come the Communist agitators preaching their specious doctrines. The Association in the capital city of Seoul, no longer requiring a foreign secretary, has a nation-wide and steadying influence. A thousand men and boys are enrolled in the day and evening classes.

Korea teems with the "raw material" for Y. M. C. A. membership



How Choi developed a prize herd of Holsteins, transformed his village to one of model cleanliness, and leads his community in dairying and chicken-raising forms a chapter in the history of the Korean rural Y. M. C. A.

To avoid overlapping of effort the Christian forces of Korea have divided the field into seven areas. In three of these the Association has begun its rural work. Reports from one center alone show the possibilities.

> Thirty-five volunteers visit seventeen towns and enrol 3,500 pupils from 168 villages in the study of farming methods. These workers distribute seeds; they distribute eggs for raising better fowls; they teach co-operation in buying and selling; they distribute literature and point out the value of temperate habits and of thrift. They bring the principles, spirit, and Christ of the Gospel.

One new expert was introduced to the field in 1928, trained in the specialty of soils, seeds, and other aspects of production; another follows early in 1929 to give chief attention to the adaptation of crops and to marketing. The official reporter to the International Missionary Council at Jerusalem

on rural conditions in Korea wrote: "It is a long time since I have become so enthusiastic over anything as over this rural program of the Young Men's Christian Association."

The Philippines

FOR several years the National Committee of the Philippines has been building in Manila a model Association in which its adaptations to the islands might be worked out, programs tested, secretaries trained, and working force of able laymen made acquainted with its administration. The many-sided work of this metropolitan organization with eight units is well worth a paragraph.

> On a six-acre plot in the center of Manila are four buildings, the first for Filipinos in business and professional life; the second, fully equipped, for Filipino students; the third, for Americans and Europeans; and the fourth, for the national offices. In the poorer sections of the city is the fifth unit, the Yangco Branch, carrying on an admirable industrial program; the sixth is among the Chinese; in another student center is the seventh; and the eighth is devoted to educational purposes. All Filipino branches are wholly self-supporting and are managed by a city board of directors and a Filipino general secretary, with whom is associated a foreign secretary as counsellor. The combined membership is 3,502; the annual budget $65,000. The branch for Americans and Europeans is directed by its own board and is also self-supporting. The ninth and tenth units, for American and Filipino soldiers and sailors, in Manila and at Fort William McKinley, a few miles away, provided with adequate buildings and staffs, are under the direction of the Army and Navy Department of the National Council of the United States, with an annual budget of $60,000.

Plans have been worked out for the extension of the Association into the leading cities of Negros, Cebu, and Mindanao, and finally into each of the fifty provincial capitals. Last year the Association was successfully launched in Cebu, Iloilo, and Lingayen; Laoag in Northern Luzon is soon to be opened: all this past and prospective expansion without increase in foreign personnel beyond the allocation of two years ago.

Half the members of the National Legislature are related to the Association as contributors, members, or officers. The foreign staff was augmented last year by the appointment of a son of the general secretary of the Cleveland Association staff, the second son to enter foreign Association work from a family whose father was one of the pioneer secretaries in China.

The Area of Southern and Western Asia and Africa

India, Burma, and Ceylon, South Africa, Egypt, and Palestine

IN the countries of this Area two great inter-related processes are going vigorously on: comprehensive, fundamental readjustments within their own life, and a struggle to attain a larger degree of freedom from foreign control. These processes inevitably involve internal and external conflicts, racial, economic, religious, and political. Fortunately they also stimulate more constructive elements in a nation's up-building: self-reliance, individual initiative, equality of opportunity, better adapted and more widespread education, social reform, moral power, and religious reality.

The opportunity of the Young Men's Christian Association in this situation is: (1) to gather on its hospitable platform representatives of the various nationalities, races, and religions and to weld them together in mutually trustful comradeship; (2) to co-operate with, and, wherever possible, supplement other agencies which aim to strengthen the physical, economic, educational, and social foundations of life, and to create a better social environment; (3) to interpret and apply in terms of everyday life the message and personality of Jesus

Christ in order to develop the quality of personal character essential for racial or national self-realization.

India, Burma, and Ceylon

IN INDIA the widespread renaissance in the national life continues to gather momentum. Perplexing situations have arisen in the political realm, calling for the wisest leadership. The steady break-down of the caste system is destroying the old economic sanctions, resulting in restlessness and fear. Disproportioned criticism from outside has aroused deep resentments. Internal strife among the various religious and social groups has been a cause of profound anxiety. On the other hand, the inspiring beginnings of a women's movement, searchings and experimentation in the field of "education for life", the steady growth in social reform movements under Indian direction, the vigorous life being revealed in literature, music, and art, and the increasing movement of the heart of India toward Christ are signs of great promise.

At Nagpur and Bombay are two noteworthy examples of the Association's pioneering with industrial workers. At Nagpur a staff of six Indians and one American is at work in nine sections of the city under the guidance of an Indian senior secretary, covering an extensive program of activities:

> More than 300 Association Scouts; nine night schools which taught the three R's to 385 young men; lantern lectures; debates; discussions; entertainments; wrestling and outdoor sports; Health Week with over 7,000 in attendance; self-government encouraged in a new recreation hut; over 500 workers holding shares in the co-operative store belonging to the mills but managed by the Association; the establishment, after five years of preparation, of a model village—100 houses built, the majority by the people themselves. In Bombay the welfare work has been extended from one center to three, the new work being among railway and city employees.

Physical directors of the Foreign Committee, serving in Rangoon, Madras, Lahore, Calcutta, and Bombay, have been

Senior training class, National Y. M. C. A. School of Physical Education, Madras. The present building equipment of this school, to which India looks for trained leaders is a thatched hut and outdoor gymnasium

the principal formative influence in establishing comprehensive programs of hygiene and recreation. From Rangoon, five Burmese have gone, under government auspices, to the Association Physical Training School of Madras, and on completion of their training will be directors in the schools and colleges of Burma. In the other cities there has been a steady development in Association physical activities, in municipal play-grounds, in service to government departments of education, and in advisory and co-operative relationships with thousands of clubs and teams outside the Association.

During the eighth year of the Physical Training School in Madras, twenty-one men completed the full nine months' course and thirty-six others participated in shorter courses. Since the beginning of the school in 1920 there have been 107

A Y. M. C. A. playground in the heart of a poor, over-crowded Mohammedan district in Bombay, India. Bombay municipality is one of several cities to enlist the Association in planning, equipping, and overseeing playgrounds. Calcutta has recently sent four leaders to train in the school in Madras

regular students of whom twenty-nine are now in government educational and municipal playground service, eight are in the Association, and twenty-two in missionary schools and colleges. A total of 112 drill instructors, previously in the employ of schools, have taken "refresher" courses. This is the only institution in India at which training in modern theories and methods of physical education can be secured. It has been called upon to train the physical directors of fifty colleges and universities and to co-operate actively with the Department of Education in a scheme of compulsory physical education in secondary institutions.

Because of budget limitations the Association's greatest

problem among the 32,000,000 boys in India is to supply the leaders and equipment needed. Three foreign secretaries only are primarily responsible for boys' work. Madras, Rangoon, and Calcutta have long had separate boys' branches, ranging in membership from 150 to 500. Through sheer pressure of demand, the boys' hostel in Calcutta crowds thirty into space for twenty though the fees are greater than in any other similar place in the city. Colombo initiated boys' work during the year with a foreign-trained Ceylonese in charge. Camps are held in different parts of the country.

In 1927, two Foreign Committee secretaries were related chiefly to work among students, and in all the city Associations students form an important section of the membership. The hostels in Calcutta, Nagpur, Rangoon, Madras, and Bombay accommodated 225 undergraduates in a Christian atmosphere. In Nagpur the full acceptance into the group by the Hindu residents of four young men from an outcaste group was a significant social advance.

In four of the forty city Associations, five Foreign Committee secretaries carried general administrative responsibilities, perfecting organization, developing financial support, working out programs, training staffs, enlisting new members. In the great port cities—Bombay, Colombo, Madras, Rangoon, Calcutta—and in other capital cities—Delhi, Lahore, Hyderabad—they come into effective contact with many elements of the varied population. Colombo, for example, has a membership of 1,850 and a normal daily attendance at the Central Branch of 1,300.

Six secretaries of the Foreign Committee gave their attention to the development of national work. They were specifically related to general administration, the securing of income, the production and spread of literature, religious work, and the erection and upkeep of buildings. One secretary supervised eighty village Associations and five town and city Associa-

tions in Travancore. Most of this work is carried on under village conditions with great simplicity of organization, and, except for the supervisory secretary, entirely under voluntary leadership. The annual summer school is an important training agency for this group, and brings together forty to fifty volunteer workers for the study of religious education, rural reconstruction, problems of health and sanitation, and other practical village needs.

The Lecture Department for the first time attained complete self-support, including the budget of the Indian secretary in charge. The Army Department in its eight army posts continued to serve British troops, helping prepare them for the resumption of civilian life at the completion of their service.

Other services include the preparation and sale of books and pamphlets dealing with important phases of the social, historical, cultural, and religious life of India; conference of evangelistic workers from many different churches in every part of North India, arranged by one of the secretaries who has also continued in charge of the promotion plans for the evangelistic work of the Rev. E. Stanley Jones; plans for religious education, built around the six most urgent problems of Indian youth: a job, sex, race relationships, caste, marriage, and education; the *World Study of Jesus Christ* promoted both in the Associations and in church and missionary groups.

The re-building of India's rural life, in all its phases, is the country's most basic need. It is a vast, complicated, and challenging job, to which many agencies are contributing. The Association carries on four demonstration community centers in South India, whose aim is to meet the economic, social, health, and educational needs of the villages through agricultural demonstrations in poultry-raising and farming, instruction in supplementary cottage industries such as weaving, and instruction in health, in sanitation, and in recreational activities. In the tenth annual session of the Summer School for Rural

1. *Architect's plan—Jerusalem.* 2. *Mon*
4. *Prague, Czechoslovakia.* 5. *Yokohama,*
Association,

Uruguay. 3. *Mexico City, Mexico.*
6. *Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.* 7. *Foreign*
ai, China

Workers held in Coimbatore courses were given in calico printing, dyeing, poultry farming, bee-keeping, elementary agriculture, co-operative banking, rural health and sanitation, recreation and playgrounds, and adult education.

Egypt

THE general situation in Egypt is somewhat similar to that in India, though the country is far smaller, more compact and economically much stronger in proportion. Political affairs are, if possible, even more tense at the moment. Undoubtedly this fact will have marked effect on the mass of young intelligentsia among whom the Association has its opportunity. There are signs in the religious realm of the recklessness which accompanies the liberalization of a rigid, authoritarian control. Islam

"Talking it over,"—a discussion class in the "prayer room" of the Cairo Association. Here Copt, Protestant, Jew, and even Moslem meet on common ground

in Egypt is influenced by stirrings for greater freedom and more modern adaptation to life from within and by the example of other Moslem lands, particularly Turkey, from without.

During the past year the Egyptian Association has had five Foreign Committee secretaries, six Egyptians, and three English. The first Egyptian secretary to be trained abroad has just returned to Cairo to take over from its foreign pioneer the newly established boys' work; another succeeded the foreign physical director as the latter took furlough; and a third joined the Physical Training School in Geneva, Switzerland.

The city work in Cairo and Assiut has shown steady growth. In Assiut a building site was secured for which $25,000 was pledged locally, and the erection of this building hopefully awaits North America's contribution of an equal amount. In Cairo the use of the Association building has steadily increased. Three Egyptian secretaries were added to the staff. The educational department again received high commendation from the government. The Anglo-American Branch, self-supporting and with a membership of 480, raised $7,500 for improvements in its Sports Club and branch quarters.

Palestine

NOW that the antagonisms between Arabs and Jews have cooled considerably, the main issue in Palestine is economic. The government has brought about improvements in general living conditions, but the absence of raw materials for industrial development and the checkered economic experiences of Zionism, in spite of large sums brought in from the outside, have made the year one of light and shade at best.

Attention is centered on the extensive plans for the new building, for which such generous provision has been made by American donors. It will provide first for the activities of the Jerusalem Association including the commercial school, the trade school, and the library, which already numbers 15,000

volumes; for the national work of the whole area; and for a world service in helping form friendships between races, religions, and nationalities.

In Jaffa, with a secretary from the English National Council, and in Nablus, the old Shechem, carried on wholly by volunteers, the Association has ministered to approximately 500 boys and men—Moslem, Jew, and Christian.

South Africa

GOVERNMENT, industry, and land are in the hands of the 1,500,000 white minority, surrounded by 5,000,000 Africans. The resulting problems in race relationships and economic rivalry are acute and at times dangerous. The old tribal social system of the Africans is fast breaking up, and new economic and social controls must be found. Of primary importance is the evolution of an African community, qualified and trained to guide their people through this highly disturbed situation.

For many years the white Associations of Africa have maintained their own independent national movement, a member of the World's Alliance. During the World War Mr. Max Yergan represented the American Associations in a fruitful ministry to native Africans, which the Foreign Committee has continued to strengthen and extend in the southernmost quarter of this great continent. The student groups are the key to a truly extraordinary opportunity. While on a recent furlough Mr. Yergan secured a conditional gift of $25,000 from Mr. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., for a building to be erected at Alice, near Fort Hare, Cape Province, the seat of the only institution of higher learning in South Africa for Africans. The conditions call for an additional $22,000, of which the colored people of the United States have already raised a part. When completed, the building will serve as the national head-

quarters, as a center for the student community and for youth and adults in and around Fort Hare, as a social laboratory for studying and solving the larger religious and social needs of the African people. During the year the four student conferences, the social study and discussion groups, and the Bible study groups which enrol two-thirds of the Movement's membership of 3,000 in thirty Associations were successfully carried on by Mr. Yergan's associate, Mr. Ncwana.

The Latin American Area

South America, Central America, Mexico, and the West Indies

THE large influx of immigration into some of the Latin American countries and the different degrees of economic, political, and cultural progress are making for a marked variety of conditions. All countries are moving forward, and some with surprising rapidity. The abundance of unsettled land and wealth of undeveloped natural resources have attracted hundreds of thousands of immigrants and billions of capital. This is an area of republics which promises much for the final triumph of democracy. Here are twenty nations in the making. They are on the way. Their chief problem is to make their moral and spiritual progress keep pace with their advances in the economic and scientific realms.

Four tendencies in Latin America are today of special significance to the Association: first, a new sense of responsibility on the part of the educated leaders for the welfare of the people; second, a spirit of social and economic unrest among the masses; third, a growing consciousness of the influences that make for constructive idealism and character; fourth, a growing interest in vital religion, particularly among the directing classes.

The Association seems providentially established in Latin America for such a time as this. In the judgment of thoughtful men it is uniquely qualified, because of its aims, its program, its leadership, and its freedom from political and ecclesiastical partisanship, to serve and guide Latin American youth, if only its influence can be greatly extended. Unfortunately it has entered as yet only seven of the twenty republics. The co-operation of the Associations of the United States and Canada is urgently needed to make possible this expansion. The recent Foreign budget reductions are not only retarding such development but are weakening existing Associations by the withdrawal of experienced leadership, and the consequent loading of too great responsibility on young nationals of limited experience. The reduced co-operation also seriously influences the morale of the Movement and puts it in the position of fighting on the defensive instead of the offensive, and that in a day of unprecedented opportunity.

The Association's importance in Latin America is not chiefly in buildings overflowing with young men but even more in the widespread, vital influences that go far beyond the membership. If one were to designate some of these extraordinary services, three would stand out in special prominence.

The first is in the field of physical education, through giving right ideals and constructive programs for the furtherance of recreation, health, and character. The United States Department of Commerce recently commented favorably upon this service. In Uruguay, for example, where in 1912 when the Association began its work there was not a public playground in the country, there are now over sixty playgrounds, with a National Commission on Physical Education spending $100,000 for this purpose. The Association provided the leadership for this development. Another example is in Mexico, whose national physical director has just been lent to the

The Valparaiso Association extends its influence to the alleys where boys' groups enjoy games and fellowship

government in order to develop a national program of physical education.

A second such ministry is in the training of leadership for social service, including physical education. Young men trained in the Association, and therefore qualified to express its spirit and methods, are increasingly sought by governments and other agencies. A recent example is seen in the remarkably successful work of a young Argentine secretary, lent to his government for the purpose of reorganizing and directing the leading reform school of 500 boys. The progressive Minister of Justice, under whose direction this work has gone forward, stated recently that had his administration done nothing else, it would be amply justified by this one enterprise. Congress has voted to establish six more such institutions.

The third and greatest of these services is in the field of religion. In the language of a South American cabinet member, "Strange movements and awakenings are being felt among

us. Men not in the ministry of any church are beginning to write about Christ. There are signs that a need is being felt and confessed and men are asking to have that need satisfied in the Divine." The expression of this awakening is neither Catholic nor Protestant. No one personality is the source or leader of it. Among the lay figures who are prominently identified with it are the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Porto Rico, the Rector of the University of Mexico, a former Argentine Minister of Education, and the Rector of the University of Buenos Aires, the latter one of the most eminent literary men of South America, whose recent book, *The Invisible Christ,* is passing through successive editions. These men and others have been little conscious of one another and the likeness of their new religious experiences. The ministry of the Young Men's Christian Association in this movement is in the form of bringing them together, affording a platform, and placing at their disposal lecturers and writers who are carrying their message to the cultural foci of Latin America and whose acceptance in the university centers appears miraculous after the generations in which the intellectuals in these lands have rejected religion as having any objective validity for the individual or for society. Dr. E. Stanley Jones reported from his mission to South America early in 1928 that "the Association's members occupy a strategic place in the moral and spiritual life of this great progressive area."

The Latin American movement has enlisted two men who have, because of their intellectual capacity and their spiritual insight, come quickly to be recognized as outstanding prophets of a new spiritual day. One, Señor Julio Navarro Monzó, entered the Association service from a distinguished career in journalism and government service in the Argentine Republic. The other, Dr. John A. Mackay, came from the chair of Modern Philosophy in the National University of Peru. They have access to government universities and cultured circles every-

where and are directing the religious thought of youth through public addresses, group discussions, literature, and personal interviews.

In June, 1928, Señor Monzó visited the old, conservative city of Lima for the third time, and in spite of the fierce opposition of the dominant Church and the attacks of certain papers, and the effort to ignore his presence, under pressure, by all the rest of the press, he had a record-breaking attendance at the first meeting of 1,500 people. The Library Committee of the Argentine Republic recently purchased for the libraries of the country 200 complete sets of his works (consisting of a dozen books) which were written primarily to give youth an intellectual basis for the Christian faith.

The Association is receiving increasingly the endorsement and co-operation of the thoughtful leaders of the area. Notwithstanding the fact that public treasuries in Mexico are hard pressed, the state government of Chihuahua and the city government of Monterrey have followed the splendid example set by the federal government and have made substantial money grants to the Association. The late General Obregón said, "Give us the Y. M. C. A. in fifty centers of the nation, and the ideals of reconstruction will be quickly accomplished."

Two South American Presidents and other leading government officials have recently given renewed evidence of their approval and confidence. In Argentina, during the twenty-fifth anniversary campaign for half a million pesos for Buenos Aires, the President of the Republic, accompanied by the Minister of Public Instruction and Justice, and other public officials, voluntarily called at the Association's campaign headquarters to show their interest and good will. In Uruguay last year the President, several cabinet members, and other prominent national leaders helped inaugurate the new modern Association building, costing nearly $500,000.

The Association is established in Mexico, Cuba, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Uruguay, and Porto Rico. National Committees exist in Brazil and Mexico and an international general agency known as the Continental Committee of the South American Federation of Young Men's Christian Associations serves the five South American countries having Associations, and is responsible for extending the Movement into the remaining countries of the continent.

A training plan for the entire area is one of the outstanding developments. It provides a four years' course of study and practical work. It is expected to provide the leadership of nationals for the expansion of the Movement into new communities and new groups. All undergraduate study by young men training for the Association professions in Latin America is now done on the field. Of the twenty men already graduated, seventeen are in Association positions, two have been called to government positions of social service, and one has entered another calling.

Experimental psychology class at the South American Senior Association Training School, Montevideo. Four years of careful training are given for the secretaryship

The European Area

Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Greece, Italy, Latvia, Poland, Portugal, Roumania, Turkey, and the Work for Russians in Europe

TEN years have passed since the close of the Great War. The coming of peace found the Association ministering among soldiers, sailors, and prisoners of war from Archangel to Constantinople, and from Brest to Vladivostock. In response to the urgent appeal of the people and of their business, political, and educational leaders the Association's war service was quickly transformed into a work of social and spiritual reconstruction. In some countries were to be found groups of pre-war Associations, chiefly small church organizations, which were quickened into new life. In Turkey and in Portugal were Associations which had been established by the Foreign Work Committee before the war. The World's Committee, a co-ordinating and not a "sending" body, was still another potent Association influence in Europe. These widely varying types, purposes, and methods were soon united in two sorts of harmonious relationships: one which magnifies the fraternity and mutual stimulus of the National Movements as members of the World's Alliance; and the other which looks toward the Foreign Committee of the United States and Canada for counsel and support in developing model Associations in cities of the largest influence.

In a score of Europe's chief cities the Association has taken firm root; such cities are Tallinn and Tartu in Estonia; Riga in Latvia; Warsaw, Krakow, and Lodz in Poland; Prague and six other centers in Czechoslovakia; Bucharest in Roumania; Constantinople in Turkey; Sofia in Bulgaria; Saloniki and Athens in Greece; Rome and Turin in Italy; and Lisbon in Portugal.

The new $700,000 building at Prague was opened in 1928, 5,800 people visiting it the first day. The story of its activities reads like a page out of a vigorous Association's report on this side of the water:

> A membership of 1,014, the business men paying a fee of $24, upsetting the predictions of "doubting Thomases"; 299 dormitory men in residence, with a waiting list of more than 600; nine regular gymnasium classes meeting twice a week; in October the physical director had sixty interviews, mostly in connection with forty-nine physical examinations; fourteen young men's clubs going well, with an Inter-club Council enrolling one-quarter of the total men's membership; seventeen very active boys' clubs with 265 members; talks on character and ideals in each week's program; thirty-two in boys' club leaders' course for twelve weeks; active membership squarely on service basis.

The Krakow building has been more than a year in operation, and in service and income has surpassed all precedents. The building serves twelve schools and other organizations in addition to its 1,500 membership. The six new provincial buildings in Czechoslovakia have also measured up to expectations. In Liberec, a town of 40,000, 5 per cent of the entire population is served in the building every day. Lisbon purchased a building which is being remodeled, and when opened will have the finest gymnasium in the city. The Bucharest Association, which receives no North American aid other than the one secretary allocated to it, is constructing a very good gymnasium on a lot on which a long-term lease has been secured.

Considerable time has been spent during the year in an attempt to determine for the cities concerned what the nature and extent of income-producing features of a building should be in relation to the entire cost. The problem has a vital bearing on the permanent establishment of the Association.

Local committees have been organized at all points, but many need encouraging and stabilizing. Functioning national committees exist in Czechoslovakia, Poland, Estonia, and Italy.

Greece has a provisional national committee, and it is expected that a permanent committee will be formed there by the end of 1929.

The Association leaders of these countries have made thorough and comprehensive studies of what is involved in the permanent establishment of the Association in a given country. They agree that it calls for the following:

1. The setting up of standard Association policies adapted to local conditions.
2. The recruiting, training, and maturing of an adequate native personnel.
3. The development of a full and rich program of activities.
4. The perfection of an efficient organization.
5. The provision of a certain minimum equipment.
6. The establishing of a sound system of finance.

The Polish Movement has carefully set its goals ahead to 1940, on the assumption of a given measure of North American co-operation, establishing levels of efficiency which should be reached each year along the way. Their chart showed on January 1, 1929, an average of 49 per cent achievement on these six lines of endeavor which, in concrete terms, cover the following:

> Twenty-nine Polish secretaries of whom five are university graduates and ten others with part of a university course; 728 in three vocational schools; first annual basket-ball and volley-ball national championships; two boys' camps, 279 boys attending, conducted entirely by Polish personnel; older boys' conferences planned and conducted entirely by Poles; 3,495 total membership, with 336 volunteer workers; fifty-seven groups, enrolling 791 members; 87 per cent self-supporting.

Already the European Associations have made a significant contribution to general education in their advocacy of physical education, athletics, organized play, and playgrounds. In every field this is a most appreciated service. The new

buildings which are being erected make fitting provision for physical training, and, where specially constructed equipment is not yet feasible, open spaces are being turned into playgrounds for community betterment. The International Y. M. C. A. School of Physical Education at Geneva was started in September, 1927, with nine students representing eight nations. The enrolment was doubled the next year. It is affiliated with the Y. M. C. A. College at Springfield and conducts its instruction in collaboration with the University of Geneva and the Jean Jacques Rousseau Institute; for the supplementary teaching staff it draws on the secretariat of the Association World's Committee, the League of Nations, and the International Labor Bureau. In Czechoslovakia the government physical directors are brought together for a week's coaching each year under the leadership of L. C. Schroeder of the Foreign Committee's staff. The International Olympic Committee awarded its 1929 cup to the Association for "signal service rendered throughout the world in the cause of sport and in the development of physical education."

Ninety per cent of the Association's activities in these countries is centered around the boy. This emphasis, maintained from the beginning, is already bearing fruit. Boys who started five or six years ago in boys' clubs are today leaders and members of the student, industrial, and city Associations. Excellent camps with permanent equipment are established in Greece, Turkey, and Roumania, and in two centers each in Poland and Czechoslovakia. Annual camps with tent equipment are maintained in Portugal, Italy, Bulgaria, Estonia, and Latvia.

The Studentský Domov in Prague enrolls 3,000 students from twenty-nine nations; this work has been definitely affiliated with the Czechoslovak National Association Movement. New student work has been undertaken in Warsaw and Tartu. In Athens, Sofia, Lisbon, Tartu, Warsaw, Krakow, and Rome, from 10 to 33 per cent of the membership is student, while in

Foreign Minister Beneš of Prague, Czechoslovakia, on a recent visit to the new Y.M.C.A. building. "I will come," he telephoned, "if I may have intimate conversation with young men."

Prague and Coimbra there are student Associations with their own buildings.

The wide diversity of religious points of view presents to the Association Movement a great problem and a challenge. Here are the Lutheran-Protestant countries of the North; Roman Catholic Poland, Portugal, and Italy; Orthodox Greece and the Balkans and Russia; Moslem Turkey; and the diversified mixture in Czechoslovakia. Slow but sure progress is being made in nearly every field in bringing boys and men of these various faiths together for common service on the Association platform. The most notable recent advance was a conference in Sofia between representatives of the Russian, Greek, Bulgarian, and Roumanian Churches—their highest clergy and scholars—and Association leaders in those areas. These representatives agreed upon formulas of procedure that protect all groups concerned in the integrity of their doctrinal teachings, and at the same time open the doors for inter-con-

fessional groups to examine together and exchange the values resident in the various faiths, forms, teachings, and experiences, and in their expression. Out of the annual religious work conferences for the Baltic States, held in Riga, has grown an inter-confessional, inter-church national program. The Lutheran Church in Estonia has entered upon a special ministry to its youth, and has chosen an Association-trained man as their leader.

The School for Russians outside of Russia reaches from its headquarters in Paris to forty-six nations, enrolling 7,226 students who through correspondence are preparing themselves to live, to serve their country, and to maintain their loyalty to the Church, which is their constant comforter and strength in their enforced exile.

Last year intensive financial campaigns, new to Europe until the coming of the North American type of Young Men's Christian Association, have been carried out with varying degrees of success, but without failures, in Tallinn (Reval) ,Tartu (Dorpat), Riga, Warsaw, Lodz, Krakow, Prague, Brno, Kromeriz, Bucharest, Constantinople, and Lisbon. A financial constituency is being systematically and consistently developed. This is a major project at present in all fields except Italy, where although there are many devoted friends, it is not yet opportune to emphasize local support.

The financing of National Committees for a new organization in countries of little wealth is a real problem, the final solution of which has not yet been found. Turkey, Estonia, and Poland are leading the way and making progress.

The Home Base

THE partnership of Canada and the United States in this Association World Service is an outstanding example of international co-operation. Though each country has its own points of view this fellowship has ever been effective in understanding and achievement. The management is vested in a joint Committee named by the two National Councils, and the financial support and supply of personnel rest upon the two constituencies in a measure proportionate to their resources.

The problem of sustaining this undertaking in thirty lands makes constant and imperious demands upon the leadership at the Home Base. In spite of utter devotion by laymen and secretaries, the base of support has not been extended rapidly enough to bridge the gap left by the depletion of funds made available during and after the War, upon which the enlarged program in Europe and elsewhere was based at that time. Of the 210 foreign secretaries on duty January 1, 1927, forty-seven had been withdrawn by December 31, 1928, with only six replacements, a net loss costly in lowered morale of the remaining staff, in the disruption of careers dedicated to this service, in the shifting of loads upon nationals before they had been adequately trained, in the cutting back of fruit-bearing, and in the surrender of opportunity. The present line must be held.

Gains have been registered in the spread of giving over a larger number of Associations and individuals. Five years ago the entire budget was supported by not more than 25,000 individuals. Now it is given by not fewer than three times that number. Ten years ago responsibility for the budget was felt chiefly at the national headquarters and by a few scores of

local Associations. Now it is recognized that the normal Association shall take its fair share of financial responsibility, and shall develop and maintain its own list of contributors. There are now added scores of Associations carrying on a program of cultivation which reaches from the coin systematically given by the twelve-year-old boy to a gift of thousands by an Association director or friend. The generous grants during the last five years by the Laura Spelman Rockefeller Memorial toward the special educational program have been a large factor in the progress made in bringing the effective sense of World Brotherhood into the whole program of the local Association.

This growing appreciation has been furthered by the World "Y" Tours conducted under the auspices of the Foreign Committee. Annually, for four years, groups of twenty or more carefully selected high-school boys and younger college men have toured Europe under the ablest Association leadership, making friendships in Association camps and elsewhere with the boys of other nationalities. These tours are completely self-supporting.

A program highly important is that of Friendly Relations among Foreign Students, begun in 1911 as auxiliary to the Foreign Committee in behalf of the 10,000 students in the North American universities and colleges from 100 foreign nations. If all these student visitors are to be surrounded with friendship some one must make it his business to see that they are welcomed upon arrival and assisted in establishing such relationships as will foster and strengthen mutual esteem. The identification of the budget of the Friendly Relations Committee with that of the Foreign Committee in 1927 proved disadvantageous in respect to income and therefore to its program. To regain the losses suffered while conserving the advantages of a close and guiding relation to the Foreign Committee and the Student Division, a reorganization has been effected on the initiative of the two committees

whereby a naturally related constituency can be enlisted and developed. An administrative board has been organized with Mr. Frank L. Polk as Chairman and Mr. Thomas S. Lamont, Treasurer. Serving on their Advisory Council are fifteen leaders in the promotion of international friendship, such as Elihu Root and George W. Wickersham. Two foreign secretaries are maintained on the staff in addition to five nationals, the latter being the leaders chosen by the representative Chinese, Japanese, Korean, Filipino, and Russian Student Christian Associations in the United States, whose membership totals 6,800.

Dr. John R. Mott, who retired in 1928 from the General Secretaryship of the National Council of the Young Men's Christian Associations of the United States, continues an influential co-operation in the capacity of a Foreign Committee member. His chairmanship of the International Missionary Council and of the World's Committee of the Young Men's Christian Association, of each of which this Foreign Work is an integral part, will also afford his leadership in phases of grand strategy.

Fletcher S. Brockman, who retired at the end of 1928 as Administrative Secretary of the Far Eastern Area, has also accepted membership in the Foreign Committee. He first went out to China in 1898; then became the able leader of the foreign staff in China before taking responsibility for the whole Far Eastern Area. It is most fortunate that he will be replaced by Colonel Gerald W. Birks of Montreal, who brings to this service his life-long identification with the Association, extensive first-hand knowledge of the fields, and great business and family prestige.

The achievements of North American Association pioneering in these thirty foreign lands during the last forty years have been notable, but the task is not finished in any one of them. In the most developed, the stage has just been reached

for co-operation at its best. That this far-flung line of co-operative service in thirty countries is withstanding the withdrawals of foreign personnel and the reduction of foreign financial aid without collapse on a wide front, even when and where other and inimical forces of great strength were concentrating their attack, is the most convincing proof yet afforded that its vitality, strategy, and technique are fundamentally sound and that its ministry is to go on.

Corroboration of this statement is found in the deliberations and findings of the Jerusalem Meeting of the International Missionary Council. After years of study directed by those best minds of the older and the younger Churches to the discovery and formulation of the principles, methods, and spirit found in over a century of missionary experience which can be used to further in this present time the world-wide expansion of Christianity, no essential pronouncement was forthcoming which had not been anticipated in the theory and practice of the foreign outreach of our Movement. Equally significant was the appearance in the first line of leadership at Jerusalem of Young Men's Christian Association foreign and national personnel from China, Japan, Korea, India, South America, and Africa, although the Association as such had no official representation.

There are thirty unanswered calls upon the Foreign Committee's agenda from nations whose youth struggle against heavy odds. Only seven of the republics of Latin America have been entered; Siam, Java, Persia, and Spain are other great fields whose doors are open, and in the background lie the Islands of the Pacific, Arabia, and the east and west coasts of Africa, which challenge the swiftly growing resources of Christian North America.